

July 9, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Shelter the Homeless is pleased to write in support of Salt Lake City Corporation's application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation discretionary grant for 300 West: Building a Complete, Safe, and Smart Street. As an agency focused on addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake City and throughout Utah, we believe the 300 West Project is a significant capital investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, which are often the only affordable transportation options for vulnerable populations.

Salt Lake City is one of our key partners and we are working closely in the siting, design, and construction of the new Paramount Avenue Homeless Resource Center, which is located in the 300 West project area, scheduled to open in July 2019. It will be one of three flagship Resource Centers that are part of a broader change in approach to how our homeless response system helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The existing street configuration and transportation infrastructure serving the Paramount Homeless Resource Center is not sufficient to meet the needs of the vulnerable population to be served at the Resource Center. Increased access and connectivity to transit, safe pedestrian friendly intersection crossings, and ADA-accessible sidewalks, bus stops, mid-block crossing are key transportation infrastructure investments that increase the likelihood for individuals experiencing homelessness to link to employment training, steady work, regular health care, and vital support services to resolve their housing crisis.

Homelessness is a multifaceted challenge, with transportation being a key issue. Financial assistance from the BUILD program for 300 West: Building a Complete, Safe, and Smart Street will catalyze the proposed transportation infrastructure improvements for our community to start thinking more creatively about homelessness. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston L. Cochrane".

Preston L. Cochrane, Executive Director